

300 APS students with autism treated to special performance by New Mexico Philharmonic

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There are some things we take for granted – a live performance being one of them. But for hundreds of APS students with autism and their families, it means much more because they got to experience it their way.

“I felt that this would be just a great life experience for them,” said Anthony Trujillo.

It definitely has been, because for the second year in a row, 300 APS students with autism got to enjoy a performance of “Peter and the Wolf” by the New Mexico Philharmonic.

“Symphony for Autism” began as an idea from Trujillo, whose daughter has autism. “She’s the reason why we’re here today. You know, it’s all about her and I do it for her,” said Trujillo.

That’s why Trujillo approached APS with the idea. His goal is to make the environment comfortable for the students to enjoy. “For most parents with children with autism, it’s very difficult to take our children to quiet venues because they don’t know the social etiquette,” added Trujillo.

“Our students love routine - all students love routines - and so we want them to really be able to enjoy the event and not have things kind of just pop up,” said Deborah Dominguez-Clark, the director of special education with APS.

That’s why she said teachers have really worked to prepare their students for the performance so they know what to expect. “We talk about the noises, the sounds, the visual things that we’re going to be showing during the event,” added Dominguez-Clark.

There are already plans to bring it back next year and the years following.